

The survivors in Galveston were committed to protect their city in the future. They dredged the ship channel and the island was literally raised 17 feet by the dredging. It would be an engineering marvel even today. A massive sea wall was built to protect the city from future hurricanes. The economic loss, property loss, and loss of life had a serious impact on the coastal city.

Although the great storm in Galveston was extraordinary, those who survived and pitched in to help rebuild Galveston were just as extraordinary in their grit and character. Those brave Texans who survived faced the challenges head on, and eventually Galveston rose back from that murky mud.

Galveston has come a long way since that weekend in 1900. It is once again a thriving community, rich in history, opportunity; and the citizens are as resilient as they were 105 years ago today. Galveston did lose, however, its title of "wealthiest city" to another place up the bayou called Houston.

Today, as our Gulf Coast neighbors struggle to put their lives back together after the devastating blow they received from Hurricane Katrina, our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and families. The devastation caused by this hurricane affects the entire Nation, and we must come together to provide for our friends, our relatives and our neighbors in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama during this time.

On the anniversary of the "great storm," the Galveston storm, the people of southeast Texas are ready and showing their compassionate spirit to those devastated by Katrina. I commend them for their kindness in this time of need. Just as Galveston was rebuilt, we remain optimistic that this recent disaster will be overcome by collective efforts of all Americans. As Americans, we are all in this together, Mr. Speaker; and we need to be on the same page in the hymnal. That is just the way it is.

SMART SECURITY AND THE IRAQI CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight on the heels of Hurricane Katrina, I cannot help but ask how the victims would have been helped had our National Guard and our military and our Corps of Engineers equipment been made available here at home, not across the world, making trouble instead of fixing troubles here as we responded to Katrina.

Tonight I will discuss what is happening in Iraq since we were last in session 5 weeks ago. For the last 4 years, the Bush administration has often justified the war in Iraq by boasting of the new-found freedoms Iraqi women would

supposedly enjoy thanks to our military intervention.

Many of us remember that staple of the President's stump speech, that the first voter in the Iraqi elections was a 19-year-old woman. In this very Chamber, an Iraqi woman sat with the First Lady during the State of the Union address and flashed the victory sign in celebration of the election that had just taken place.

Well, that was then, Mr. Speaker. That same woman, now Iraq's ambassador to Egypt, is one of several Iraqis now publicly criticizing their nation's draft constitution and its treatment of women's rights.

"When we came back from exile," she said, "we thought we were going to improve rights and the position of women. But look what has happened. We have lost all of the gains that we made over the last 30 years. It is a big disappointment."

In fact, the very second article of the Iraqi Constitution declares that Islam is "the official religion of the state," and that "no law may be enacted that contradicts its established provisions."

You do not have to be a theologian, Mr. Speaker, to know that adherence to strict Islamic tradition is incompatible with equal rights and dignity for women.

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Most depressing of all, perhaps, is that this constitution may actually represent a weakening of women's rights from the previous regime. That is right. Women may have fewer legal protections in this new so-called democracy than they had under the rule of that famous feminist and egalitarian Saddam Hussein. Is this what nearly 1,900 American soldiers have died for, so that Iraq could slip into repressive theocracy? Perhaps this is the noble cause, the cause we have been hearing so much about: second-class citizenship for Iraqi women.

The weapons of mass destruction claim was discredited long ago. The Iraq-al Qaeda link is nonexistent. Now it even appears that the spreading-freedom-and-democracy rationale for this war is also a fraud.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one more reason that we must end this occupation and bring our troops home as soon as possible.

One week from Thursday, I will be holding a hearing here on Capitol Hill where we will hear from experts about how we might achieve military disengagement while still playing a constructive role in the rebuilding of Iraq. Bringing the troops home should be the beginning; it should not be the end of a reassessment of our national security policy. It is time to end the reflex impulse of using military force to solve world conflicts and erroneously planned actions based on citizens' fears. This has the appearance of strength; but as Iraq has shown, it often undermines our national security rather than enhancing it.

I have proposed a new approach. It is called SMART Security. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART is based on the belief that war should be an absolute last resort, to be undertaken only under the most extreme circumstances.

But that does not mean that SMART is not serious and smart about protecting America. It is vigilant about fighting terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. But it does so with strong multilateral alliances, improved intelligence capabilities, vigorous inspection regimes, and aggressive diplomacy. SMART would reshuffle our national security budget. No more billions thrown at outdated Cold War weapons programs. That money would instead be invested in energy independence and other efforts that truly are relevant to the modern security threats we face.

SMART also includes an ambitious international development agenda, to help address the root causes of terrorism: Democracy-building that includes women as equals; education for women and girls; addressing resource scarcity—these are key ingredients to building stable societies in Iraq and elsewhere.

It is my hope and belief that the grievous mistakes we've made in Iraq will lead us to this new, smarter national security policy. SMART Security protects America by relying on the very best of American values—our capacity for global leadership, our dedication to peace and freedom, and our compassion for the people of the world, all people, women and men alike.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, America has really seen a lot, we have been through a lot, in the past week. We have watched Hurricane Katrina from start to finish. We have seen it form in the Atlantic, sweep across Florida, and enter the gulf. And we have watched in horror as it has devastated the southern portions of Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama.

We have seen some horrific images. We have seen government make some mistakes. We have seen government rescue some folks. And we have watched everyday people perform extraordinary feats.

Like most people, I have been impressed and sometimes sorely disappointed. For me there is a personal element. I grew up 60 miles inland from Gulfport, Mississippi. My family still lives there. I remember Hurricane Camille and the devastation that that storm caused. I was a senior in high school. I remember watching a lot of it play out, and I can tell the Members Hurricane Katrina is worse.

Last week my husband, my children, and I all traveled to Laurel, Mississippi from Tennessee's 7th Congressional District. We took our turns. We took supplies, and we helped with the cleanup. My parents have been long-time volunteers with the American Red Cross, and Laurel is an area where many coastal residents flee when they are trying to outrun the storm.

We knew that those volunteers could use the reinforcements, and absolutely they could. A lot of them had no running water, no electricity, no gas, no gasoline available, no roof over their homes; but they were there at the shelter feeding those that were in need.

That is America, Madam Speaker. That is the America that I grew up in, and that is the country that still today exists.

As incredible as the damage is, what is more amazing to me was the way the local communities were all pulling together, the way Americans were traveling from all over, the way many of our colleagues in this Chamber were traveling from all over to get to the region and to lend a hand. And for all those who could not physically get there, we know they are home sending donations to charities, and they are aiding organizations. They might not be there physically; they are there in spirit.

There is no measuring the generosity and compassion of the American people when they see need. The hurricane has told us that. So I want to thank every town, city, and State for sending help.

As representative for Tennessee's 7th district, I want to take a moment and recognize the work of some of our Memphis and Shelby County organizations that have made it their mission to help any way that they possibly could.

Our Memphis Corps of Engineers is already working to help rebuild the New Orleans levees. We are also thankful that the Bellevue Baptist Church, the Cathedral of Faith Ministries, Christ United Methodist Church, Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church, the Cummings Street Baptist Church, the Greater Harvest Church of God in Christ and the Greater Praise Church of God in Christ, the Independent Presbyterian Church Grove, the Memphis Union Mission, Mid-South Baptist Association Retreat Center, and the Bap-

tist Children's Home are all working to provide shelter for some of the 15,000 evacuees that are in Shelby County; and that the Friendship Baptist Church, the Germantown Presbyterian Church, the Oakland First Baptist Church are providing shelter and meals; and that the Breath of Life Seventh Day Adventist, the Calvary Episcopal Church, Holy Rosary Catholic Church and School, the Hope Presbyterian Church, Hutchison School, and the Impact Ministries of Memphis are all providing meals.

Madam Speaker, I know there are other organizations that are out there working, and we will be talking about them as we help these evacuees find a place and rebuild their lives.

REHNQUIST, ROBERTS, AND RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss MCMORRIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, as we honor Chief Justice William Rehnquist's life, we pause to reflect on his service to our country, a record of service that was colored with honor, dignity, and distinction.

Many commentators are focused on his success ushering in a quiet, conservative revolution on the Court. Another remarkable facet of Rehnquist's legacy, however, is found in a much more understated role of the Chief Justice, that of the judiciary's chief advocate and ambassador. The hallmark of his style, no matter how volatile the issue or context, from abortion to impeachment, was one of respectful debate, a quality that garnered an enormous degree of loyalty and respect among his fellow Justices, litigants, and Court watchers.

But the Chief Justice not only worked to foster respect and collegiality within the walls of the Court; he did more. For the last 2 years of his tenure, Rehnquist turned his focus to a matter that has also been a source of growing concern for many, the deterioration in relations between the Congress and the courts. As the Chief Justice reported in his year-end analysis of the state of the judiciary, and again in his customarily understated way, "During the last year, it seems that the traditional interchange between the Congress and the Judiciary broke down."

This hostility long preceded congressional intervention in the tragic case of Terri Schiavo and has taken many forms beyond the most simple and pernicious, that of defunding the courts. It includes measures stripping the courts of jurisdiction to hear particular cases, condemning the courts for the citation of certain precedent, and splitting circuits out of a dislike for their jurisprudence.

One constitutional amendment would even change the Framers' design-of-life

tenure for lower Federal courts and subject judges to costly campaigns and retention elections. If Members think political campaigning by elected officials and the growth of 527 organizations and other independent expenditure efforts are already out of control, just imagine adding negative attack ads in judicial races around the country: "Call Judge Jones and tell him to stop coddling criminals" or "Call Judge Smith and ask him why he denied relief to widows and orphans." One can just imagine what the judicial ads might look like.

Even though many of these legislative initiatives have yet to pass, we are already witnessing the direct consequences to our court system. In recent years there has been a marked decline in the level of interest and service on the bench among highly qualified attorneys. Judges are leaving the bench to return to private practice. Reckless talk in the House Committee on the Judiciary about the potential impeachment of judges not for unethical conduct but out of a disagreement with their decisions has only added to the chilling effect on the courts and people's willingness to serve.

Ultimately, this protracted war against the judicial branch will only denigrate both Congress and the courts. This is not the first time relations between the two branches have been at a dangerously low ebb, nor was Rehnquist the first Chief Justice to express alarm. Former Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes admonished the Congress of his day that "in the great enterprise of making democracy workable, we are all partners. One member of our body politic cannot say to another 'I have no need of thee.'"

Increasingly, however, the Congress has been saying just that, and Rehnquist was among the first to spot the danger. When the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I formed a bipartisan caucus to improve relations with the courts, Justice Rehnquist was the first to sit down with us. We invited him to meet with our caucus. He came to the Hill, sat down with us, and it was a very important meeting and interchange. After presiding over the high Court for the last 2 decades, he was clearly disturbed at the turn of events in relations between the branches and the resulting attack upon the independence of the judiciary.

Why does it matter if the Congress and the courts are at war? Because if the separation of powers has eroded and an independent judiciary is impaired, decisions become increasingly politicized. Public confidence in the rule of law erodes and people begin taking law into their own hands: 174 years ago, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall warned, "The greatest scourge an angry heaven ever inflicted upon an ungrateful and sinning people was an ignorant, a corrupt, or a dependent judiciary."

During the confirmation hearings of John Roberts next week, there will be